

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

## Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A protective device for releasably covering an upper end portion of a ladder to prevent the upper end portion of the ladder from marking or transferring paint to a surface upon which the upper end portion of the ladder rests comprising:

a body formed of a flexible material and being substantially flat when not installed on a ladder, said body having a generally circular closed wall superposed on and connected to a generally annular wall, said annular wall forming a central opening and said body being sized to cover an upper end portion of a ladder; and

a closure means attached to said annular wall and extending at least partially about said opening, said closure means being operative to selectively reduce a size of said opening to releasably retain said body on the upper end portion of the ladder whereby when said body is installed on the upper end portion of the ladder, said body prevents the upper end portion of the ladder from marking or transferring paint to a surface upon which the upper end portion of the ladder rests.

22. (New) The protective device according to Claim 21 wherein said body is formed of a sheet of fabric material.

23. (New) The protective device according to Claim 21 wherein said body is formed of a terry cloth material.

24. (New) The protective device according to Claim 21 wherein said body is sized to cover an upper end of a ladder side rail.

25. (New) The protective device according to Claim 24 wherein said body is sized to cover an upper end of a ladder side rail having a ladder cover thereon.

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26. (New) The protective device according to Claim 21 wherein said body is sized to cover an upper end of a step ladder.

27. (New) The protective device according to Claim 21 wherein said body is reversible being adapted to be turned inside out to present an inner surface of said body as an outer surface when installed on the upper end portion of the ladder.

28. (New) The protective device according to Claim 21 wherein said closure means is attached to said body by a fastening means.

29. (New) The protective device according to Claim 28 wherein said fastening means is stitching.

30. (New) The protective device according to Claim 28 wherein said fastening means is a hot melt fabric glue.

31. (New) The protective device according to Claim 21 wherein said closure means is an elastic band.

32. (New) A protective device for releasably covering an upper end portion of a ladder comprising:

a body formed of a sheet of cloth material and being substantially flat when not installed on a ladder, said body having a generally circular closed wall superposed on a generally annular wall, said annular wall forming a central opening, said body being sized to cover an upper end portion of a ladder, said body being reversible for turning inside out to present an inner surface of said body as an outer surface when installed on the upper end portion of the ladder; and

a closure means attached to said annular wall and extending about said opening, said closure means being operative to selectively reduce a size of said opening to releasably retain said body on the upper end portion of the ladder whereby when

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said body is installed on the upper end portion of the ladder, said body prevents the upper end portion of the ladder from marking or transferring paint to a surface upon which the upper end portion of the ladder rests.

33. (New) A protective device comprising:

a body formed of a flexible material and being substantially flat when not installed, said body having a generally circular closed wall superposed on and connected to a generally annular wall, said annular wall forming a central opening;  
an elastic band extending at least partially about said opening, said elastic band being operative to selectively reduce a size of said opening to releasably retain said body on an end of an object; and  
a fastening means attaching said elastic band to said body at an edge of said annular wall surrounding said opening.

34. (New) The protective device according to Claim 33 wherein said body is reversible being adapted to be turned inside out to present an inner surface of said body as an outer surface when installed on the upper end portion of the ladder.

35. (New) The protective device according to Claim 33 wherein said fastening means is stitching.